



Citizens Clean Elections Commission

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CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION APPROVES FOUR APPLICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES RUNNING IN 2006 ELECTION

PHOENIX, Ariz. (May 19, 2005) – The Citizens Clean Elections Commission (Commission), a state agency that administers the Citizens Clean Elections Act (Act), announced today that the applications of four candidates for the 2006 election have been approved as certified participating Clean Elections candidates. Participating candidates may become eligible to receive Clean Elections funding for their 2006 campaign after securing the required amount of \$5 qualifying contributions from registered voters.

The four approved candidates are running for various statewide and legislative offices. Sen. John Huppenthal (R) is running for re-election to the State Senate in District 20; Teresa Ottesen (R) is running for election to Governor; Albert Melvin (R) is running for election to State Senate in District 26; and Carl Seel (R) is running for election to the State House of Representatives in District 6. Once candidates are approved as participating Clean Elections candidates, they must comply with all requirements of the Act and Commission rules.

“It is a positive sign that candidates are applying early to run as a Clean Elections candidate,” said Autumn Southard, voter education manager of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission. “Candidates recognize the benefits of organizing their 2006 campaign early.”

In 2004, four Corporation Commission offices and 90 Legislative offices were up for election, resulting in 195 candidates participating in the primary election. Of those 195 candidates, 116, or 59 percent of the candidates, were certified Clean Elections candidates and the Commission disbursed \$2,246,255 to the candidates. In the general election there were a total of 156 candidates, among whom 88, or 56 percent, were participating candidates. The Commission disbursed \$2,111,271 of campaign funding to Clean Elections candidates in the general election.

About the Citizens Clean Elections Commission

The Citizens Clean Elections Act, which was passed by voters in 1998, created a new campaign financing system that provides full public funding to qualified candidates who agree to abide by Citizens Clean Elections Commission guidelines. Candidates for statewide and legislative offices are eligible to participate in the public funding program.

To qualify for funding, participating candidates must adhere to strict spending and contribution limits and gather \$5 qualifying contributions from constituents who are registered voters. Participating candidates also agree to attend required debates.

For more information visit the Citizens Clean Elections Commission website:

www.azcanelections.gov